

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1/ A method of making a motor vehicle wheel arch comprising both a body of thermoplastic material provided with an opening, and a mat closing said opening and fixed  
 5 to the body by strips of thermoplastic material secured to said body, the method comprising injecting the strips of thermoplastic material onto the mat, allowing them to solidify in contact with said mat, and forming on at  
 10 least one strip of thermoplastic material an edge of thickness that is reduced relative to the thickness of the remainder of the strip, wherein, in cross-section, the thickness of the edge is related to the width  $\ell$  of the edge by a mathematical function  $f$  such that:

$$\int_0^{\ell} f(x) dx \geq h^2$$

15 where  $h$  is the height of the edge at its junction with the strip.

2/ A method according to claim 1, in which the difference in thickness between the edge and the remainder of the  
 20 strip is marked by a step.

3/ A method according to claim 1, in which the periphery of the opening of the body forms the strips of thermoplastic material for fixing the mat to the body.

25 4/ A method according to claim 1, in which strips of thermoplastic material are formed in the orifice-closing region of the mat.

30 5/ A method according to claim 3, in which each strip is adjacent to mat on both sides and preferably has two edges of smaller thickness, one on each side.

6/ A method according to claim 1, in which two strips of plastics material are present on respective faces of the mat, which is sandwiched between said strips.

5 7/ A method according to claim 1, in which at least one strip is connected to the periphery of the opening in the wheel arch.

10 8/ A method according to claim 1, in which at least one strip is isolated from the opening in the wheel arch.

9/ A wheel arch constituted by a body of thermoplastic material having an opening and by a mat closing said opening and fixed to the body by strips of thermoplastic material secured to said body, the strips being injected  
15 onto said mat and solidified in contact therewith, at least one strip having an edge of thickness that is reduced relative to the thickness of the remainder of the strip, wherein, in cross-section, the thickness of the  
20 edge is related to the width  $\ell$  of the edge by a mathematical function  $f$  such that:

$$\int_0^{\ell} f(x) dx \geq h^2$$

where  $h$  is the height of the edge at its junction with the strip.